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entertainment

1980's psychedelic rock Siouxsie and the Banshies reviewed

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Siouxsie and the Banshees Hyaena

Psychedelic rock, also known as acid rock or the San Francisco Sound, was at its apex during the last half of the 1960s, that era of peace, love, and brain damage. At that time, such bands as the Grateful Dead, Strawberry Alarm Clock, Jefferson Quicksilver Airplane, Messenger Service, and the early Sid Barrett-dominated Pink Floyd produced albums which musically enhanced or recreated hard drug trips. Since that time, the abundance and popularity of acid rock has dwindled. The Dead are in fact the only surviving psychedelic group from the sixties.

However, a relatively more recent group, Siouxsie and the rel. Meanwhile, the strings Banshees, shows signs of be- strategically play a minor ing a dominant psychedelic chord arrangement while the group of the eighties with their guitar's stylized lines fit into latest album Hyaena.

of this group is vocalist Siouxsie Sioux, who is nothing short of an awesome singer. Next to her voice, the most powerful component of the group's sound is the drumming of a chap named Budgie. His drumming is often rudimentary, but it gnaws at you and is always a strong force. Steve Severin's bass playing is the most conventional part of the group's sound, while Robert Smith adroitly handles guitars and keyboards.

A highly orchestrated string arrangement begins the album opener "Dazzle". When Sioux comes in, she is actually quite subdued for a stanza. Then, in comes Budgie with two overdubbed types of drumming; one is conventional while the other sounds like a person playing the drum break in "Wipeout" on a rusty old barthe brillant unorthodoxy. Sud-The dominant musical force denly, it ends with the



soothing strings recapitulating the introduction.

Everything that Siouxsie and the Banshees try on Hyaena works - from the dischord of "We Hunger" which features drumming one evolutionary step above the barrelthumping of its immediate predecessor "Dazzle" and Sioux's most sultry vocals as she softly growls "hunger for this", to a remake of the Beatles' "Dear Prudence" which has some real "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds" (naturally) instrumental overtones and actually features conventional drumming. Keyboards certainly do play a role in this group's sound at times. They are most striking in "Take Me Back" but they also add immeasurably to the album's highlight "Swimming Horses". "Swimming Horses" is, however, primarily a showcase for the power of Sioux's vocals. She conjures up images of Grace SLick, that

which are at their nicest sombre and are in fact often sinister (even the title of the song "Bring Me The Head Of The Preacer Man" is horrifying) makes the Hyaena an Blow the house down." album which the would-be psychedelic listener could find

House Down": "This dervish frenzy will make you run around/ This dervish frenzy

will turn your head around/

At this point, the listener

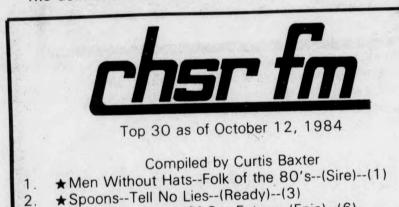
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★ Tenants--Visions Of Our Future--(Epic)--(6) *Screaming Bamboo--World of Tomorrow--(Dad's Favourite)--(4) ★Deja Voodoo--Cemetary--(OG)--(2) A Flock of Seagulls--Story of a Young Heart--(Jive)--(19) 5. 6. Talking Heads--Stop Making Sense--(Sire)--(9) Fixx--Phantoms--(MCA)--(22) 8. Psychedelic Furs--Mirror--(Columbia)--(8) 9 Julian Cope--World Shut Your Mouth--(Vertigo)--(5) 10. Fadgadget--Gag--(Mute)--(7) 11 La Danza--La Danza--(Rabid Cat)--(15) 12. 13. ★Moev--Toulyev--(Nettwerk)--(11) 14. *Durango 95--Lose Control--(Star)--(10) 15. ★Design--Design (EP)--(YUL)--(17) Spandau Ballet--Parade--(Chrysalis)--(New) 16. Depeche Mode--People Are People--(Sire)--(14) 17. ★Front--Underworld--(Duke Street)--(New) 18. U2--Pride (7")--(Islands)--(16) 19. Sacred Cowboys--Sacred Cowboys--(Fringe)--(24) 20 ★Bruce Cockburn--Stealing Fire--(True North)--(13) 21. Nick Lowe--Nick Lowe and His Cowboy 22. Outfit--(Columbia)--(New) 23. Mike Oldfield--To France--(Virgin)--(18) Roger Taylor--Strange Frontier--(Capitol)--(12) 24. 25. Vicious Pink--Cccan't You See (EP)--(EMI)--(25) Summers & Fripp--Bewitched--(A&M)--(26) 26. Reds--Shake Appeal--(Sire)--(New) 27. *Steps Around the House--Neighbour Attack--(Demo 28. Tape)--(New) 29. Ultravox--Lament--(Chrysalis)--(28) 30. Neil--Hole In My Shoe(7")--(Island)--(21) ★ Canadian Content

voice which launched a thousand trips, with her absolutely transfixing vocals on this track. The chord progression, carried by the electric piano, furthur adds to the atmosphere.

Coupling Sioux's dynamic vocals with the group's lyrics

a bad scene. As Sioux sings in could find Hyaena to be the the album's final cut "Blow The catalyst to an ugly experience.

John Vaundertuinmaster on the organ

of the organ who has been Improvisation Competition at touring since the age of thir- the 1980 Guelph Spring teen. He began his study of Festival and participated in the music at the Ontario School for Summer Academy at Haarlem, the Blind. In 1971, he studied Holland. While in Holland, he with the renowned French gave the premier recital on the organist, Jean Langlais. He new organ at Kollumerzwaag. has performed extensively in At a recent concert in Brant-Canada, the United States and ford, Ontartio the Expositor Europe.

Associateship diplomas in come to expect of this expiano and organ from Toronto cellent performer - particularly Conservatory. He studied with Barry Cabena, Jan Overduin, John McIntosh and Larry Cortner. In 1979, he was the First Without the benefit of sight Prize winner of the Summer this young artist has acquired direction of Raymond Daveluy. modern. He was the First Prize winner

John Vandertuin is a master of the Healy Willan National said, "His interpretation bore

John Vandertuin holds the all the marks that one has notable was the driving sense of rhythm which he gave through careful articulation." Organ Academy held at St. a large repertoire covering Joseph's Oratory under the works from pre-baroque to

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